REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register:	19 October 1998
Name of applicant/court:	Wellington Sexual Abuse Help Foundation
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Not Applicable
Title of Publication:	The Incredibly Strange Film Festival 97
Other Known Titles:	Not Stated
Director:	Not Applicable
Producer:	Not Applicable
Publisher:	Not Stated
Author:	Not Stated
Format:	Advertising Material
Country of Origin:	Not Stated
Language:	English

Components of film originally examined:

Feature: Not Applicable. Running time:

Trailers: Running time:

Total Running time:

Excision/Alteration: Not Applicable.

Reason(s) for Excision: Not Applicable.

Classification Decision:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.

Display Conditions:

Nil.

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: Not Applicable

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The advertising material entitled *The Incredibly Strange Film Festival 97* is classified as:
Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.

The advertising material is in the form of a programme that advertises the films that screened at the Incredibly Strange Film Festival in 1997. The programme was distributed in association with the festival and contains a preview of each of the films as well as a timetable and other miscellaneous information. Within this context the programme presents extensive descriptions of torture, acts of cruelty, sexual violence, coercion, sexual and physical conduct of a degrading and demeaning nature and degrades and demeans people, particularly women. However, these activities are only presented to a limited degree.

The submitter of the programme believes that the publication promotes or tends to promote the exploitation of young persons for sexual purposes, the use of violence or coercion to compel any person to participate in or submit to sexual conduct, and acts of torture, or the infliction of extreme violence or extreme cruelty. Of specific concern is the promotional nature and context of the image presented in association with the film preview for *The Candy Snatchers*, which depicts a young woman wearing a school uniform who is gagged, blindfolded and has her hands tied behind her back. In determining whether the programme promotes or tends to promote any of these activities, the Classification Office sought the opinion of the Commissioner for Children. The Commissioner had similar concerns to those of the submitter but felt that the image described, when compared to the programme as a whole, had a different context, and that the image did not dominate the publication as a whole. They also felt that the programme was aimed at a mature audience.

In considering both the submitter's and the Commissioner's comments, and taking into account the purpose of the programme, the nature of the film festival, its intended adult audience, and the character of the programme, the Classification Office accepts that a restriction is appropriate. In this instance the restriction of the publication to 16 year-olds and above is appropriate given the moderate degree of the descriptions and the fact that the programme highlights a certain genre of film that has now become known as "exploitation" film.

The Classification Office has also given considerable weight to the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. In balancing the competing interests affected by the classification of this programme, the Classification Office has taken into account the social issues raised by the submitter and the Commissioner for Children.

OFLC Ref: 9700783